

was said to have aided Egan and Monahan. It is also claimed by some that he fled to a nearby saloon and gave his gun to some copper.

Egan now claims he did not have a gun. But witnesses were of the opinion that Egan fired about six times.

State's Att'y Hoyne is now working on the theory that a carefully-planned attempt to put somebody out of the way was made.

"If Barney Bertsche was to tell all he knew about the police the city would shudder," said the prosecutor.

There is another angle advanced by some. It is to the effect that the feud between Halpin and Bertsche was being egged on by interests that wanted Paddy Lavin named as Halpin's successor.

Attorney Benedict Short made the following statement:

"Detective Egan got money from Bertsche on several occasions," he said. "The hen double-crossed 'Barney' and tried to shake him down. The bad blood between them—and there was bad blood, despite what Egan may say to the contrary—was caused by this.

"Egan tried time and again to shake down Barney Bertsche and succeeded. But the time came when he couldn't do it any more. Then he threatened to 'get' Bertsche.

"Don't think Barney didn't know this was coming off. He did. And when the shooting began yesterday, the fact that he was on the spot with his two automatics proves what I say."

Hoyne spoke as follows:

"Last night, when we started our investigation of this affair, important information was brought to me.

"It was to the effect that a certain notorious Chicago gunman, known both to the police and to this office, had been hired to 'get' Barney Bertsche. Now, there was no warrant out for Bertsche. He was not wanted by the police or by me. Bertsche hasn't exposed anything yet, either,

mind you. But if he wanted to 'squawk' and tell what he knows, believe me, it would bring down the roof.

"Bertsche was shot once in the back. The bullet didn't come from Monahan or Spira. There is nothing to the statement that Spira had a gun. I know positively that he did not."

"Then who shot Bertsche in the back?"

"My answer is, the hired gunman. He is the one who can explain this mystery.

"Word was brought here that Bertsche, driven to desperation by the police, was ready to tell some of the things he knew.

Mr. Hoyne denied that the gunman's name is Kelly.

"If it was the man I believe it was, his name was not Kelly," said Mr. Hoyne.

"After this fellow has fired one or more shots at Bertsche and the detectives then took up the shooting, he ran into a saloon and called a number which was a West Side saloon—Billy Skidmore's place. I don't know yet who was on the other end of the wire, but I have sent my detectives out there to find out. I believe that in a couple of days I will be able to make some startling disclosures that will shock Chicago.

"If Egan and Monahan wanted to arrest Bertsche, why didn't they do it a week ago, when Egan had an altercation with him?"

A big shake-up at the detective bureau is imminent. Mayor Harrison will begin an immediate investigation.

Bertsche's career is a checkered one. As a boy he formed a friendship with Former Mayor Busse and the two played together on Sedgwick street.

"When yet a youth he drifted into the wild Market street gang and the police became acquainted with him. Stick-ups were too dangerous for Barney, however, so he resorted to more gentle methods of a pickpocket,